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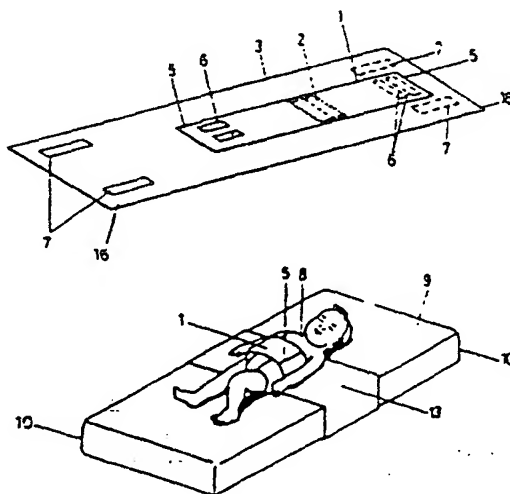


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(54) Title: INFANT SLEEP WRAP



(57) Abstract

An infant sleep wrap for maintaining a desired position of an infant (8) in a bed or cot (10) comprises a base member (3) having attachment means (7) for attachment to the base member (3), a securing member (1) which is sufficiently long to encircle an infant's chest and/or abdomen and is sufficiently wide to at least extend substantially between the lateral chest and the lower abdomen of the infant, and fastening means (6) on the securing member (3) for fastening the securing member about the infant.

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about a part of the trunk of the child. In these articles, the strip of material is usually very narrow as compared with the length of the trunk of the infant and this can cause a number of problems. The narrow strip could cause localised pressure and obstruction, particularly as a child could rotate and create a tighter knot in the strip while the child is being restrained. The narrowness of the strip is also dangerous as it could restrict circulation or even cause strangulation or cause arms and legs to become caught underneath the strip of material. Any of these physical problems could cause distress for a child and could result in a fatality.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an infant SLEEP wrap which will obviate or minimise the foregoing disadvantages in a simple yet effective manner, or which will at least provide the public with a useful choice.

To those skilled in the art to which the invention relates, many changes in construction and widely differing embodiments and applications of the invention will suggest themselves without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims. The disclosures and the descriptions herein are purely illustrative and are not intended to be in any sense limiting.

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

An infant sleep wrap for maintaining a desired position of an infant in a bed or cot. The wrap comprises a base member having attachment means for attachment to a base or mattress of the bed or cot and a securing member attached to the base member. The securing member is sufficiently long to encircle an infant's chest and/or abdomen and is sufficiently wide to at least extend substantially between the lateral chest and the lower abdomen of the infant. The securing member also has fastening means for fastening the securing member about the infant.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

The invention may be more fully understood by having reference to the accompanying drawings wherein a preferred embodiment of the invention is set forth. Figures 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the invention.

Figure 1 is a plan view of an infant sleep wrap illustrating the securing member and base member before use;

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VELCRO is a more desirable material for the important reason that infants who are older or more physiologically developed can undo the VELCRO fasteners themselves when they awake, if the need arises.

5       Securing member 1 when secured to or about the infant 8 and fastened by fastening means 6 will prevent the infant 8 manoeuvring itself out of fastened securing member 1.

      Base member 3 is attachable to mattress 9 or the like in such a manner that in use the bed wrap as illustrated in figure 3 resists attempts by infant 8 to roll or move in any direction to cause base member 3 to loosen or detach from mattress 9  
10   or the like.

      Securing member 1 and base member 3 are made from a flexible, strong and washable material such as polycotton. The attachment means 7 also comprise VELCRO strips and pads and are provided at ends 16 of base member 3 and the base member is sufficiently long to wrap around the base or mattress 9 so that the  
15   ends 16 can be affixed to each other. The attachment means 7 are sufficiently large to provide adjustment so that the base member 3 can be fastened about bed or cot bases or mattresses of varying sizes. The attachment means 7 could alternatively comprise tapes for example or material capable of being tied so as to tie ends 16 together about the base or mattress 9.

20       Base member 3 incorporates an area 13 within physical reach of infant 8 which may for example contain attached articles or means (not shown) for entertaining or occupying infant 8.

      In an alternative embodiment (not shown) of the invention base member 3 is of suitable dimension suitable to cover mattress 9 and to fit on and around corners  
25   10 of mattress 9 or the like.

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chosen so that with young or small infants, the width of securing member is sufficient to extend over that part of the trunk of the infant substantially between the armpits and the pelvis. Also, the securing member 1 must be designed to be sufficiently wide so that it extends substantially between the lateral chest and the lower abdomen of an older or larger infant. Therefore, the securing member of the present invention is at least 18cm to 20cm wide which we have found to be the optimum sizes for safe and comfortable positioning of infants as outlined above. Furthermore, the base member 3 is approximately 35cm to 50cm wide and fits flat across the mattress 9 so that there is no risk of the child getting its head or limbs caught under the edges of the base member.

Referring to Figure 4, the stitching 2 of Figures 1 and 2 is shown in more detail.

Referring to Figure 4, it will be seen that the stitching comprises at least one line and preferably two lines of stitching at two separate locations 20 and 22, extending substantially across the width of the securing member 1. A further line of stitching 24 is provided between the locations 20 and 22. Also, for added strength further lines of stitching 26 are provided parallel to the sides of the securing member 1. In the arrangement shown in Figure 4, it has been found in use that the general square of stitching comprising regions 20, 22 and 26 provides a flat base which prevents the securing member from clinging or having too great a swaddling effect. Thus with the arrangement shown in figure 4, the infant located in the securing member may roll through approximately 180° or further. That is, the infant is able to roll from a supine sleep position for example to a prone sleep position if the infant is physiologically capable of doing so and desires to do so, but the infant will be maintained in a central position on the mattress 9.

Referring to Figure 5, it will be seen that stitching 2 only comprises the single narrow line of stitching 24 to hold the securing member 1 onto the base member 3. It has been found that the narrow line of stitching 24 in use creates a greater swaddling effect when the securing member 1 is fastened about an infant. This substantially prevents the infant from rotating through 180°, but is usually sufficient to allow an infant to roll from a supine sleep position for example into a position in which the infant is sleeping on its side. In use, the wrap is preferably provided as

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CLAIMS:

1. An infant sleep wrap for maintaining the position of an infant in a bed or cot, comprising:
  - 5 a base member,  
attachment means for attaching said base member to a mattress or a base of said bed or cot,  
a securing member affixed to said base member, said securing member being sufficiently long to encircle an infant's chest and/or abdomen and being sufficiently  
10 wide to at least extend substantially between the lateral chest and the abdomen of an infant,  
and fastening means for fastening said securing member about the child.
2. An infant sleep wrap as claimed in claim 1 wherein said securing member  
15 is sufficiently wide to extend the length of that part of an infant's trunk between the armpits and the lower abdomen or pelvis.
3. An infant sleep wrap as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said securing member is fixed to said base member substantially across the width of said securing  
20 member in at least two different locations on the securing member.
4. An infant sleep wrap as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein said wrap when said base member is attached to said mattress or base and said fastening means are fastened about an infant in a supine position, substantially  
25 prevents the infant from manoeuvring itself out of said wrap or into a prone position, at least during sleep.
5. An infant sleep wrap as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein said securing member is fixed to said base member by stitching which extends substantially across  
30 the width of said securing member in a single location, said location being narrow relative to the width of said securing member.

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